



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Hallow. was identical with *Eumesodon semicarinatus*^a Cope; also that *Aepideus* Hallow. could not be distinguished from *Gonyosoma* Wagl.

He stated that he had also noted that Dr. Girard's *Rhabdion occipitale*^c from Australia, was a Najid of the genus *Glyphodon*^d *Gthr.*; perhaps distinct from the species described by the latter author. *Callirhinus*^e of the same author was not isodont, as stated by him, but glyphodont, and bearing some resemblance to *Malpolon Fitz.* *Simotes ancorus* expressed the true generic association of his *Xenodon ancorus*^f; it is from Luzon, and identical with *Simotes phænochalinus*^g Cope. The *Erythrolamprus venustissimus* of the same author,^h is properly *E. albostolatus*ⁱ Cope.

Specimens of *Lepidosternum Floridanum* Baird^k were exhibited. Mr. Cope stated that this Amphisbænian reptile was evidently typical of a form generically distinct from *Lepidosternum*, which he would name *Rhineura*. In the form of the head, and presence of nasal shields it resembled *Phractogonus Hallow.* from Africa; in the shielding of the crown and absence of preanal pores it was similar to *Lepidosternum*. It differed from both in the depressed, superiorly tuberculous tail. This structure was appropriate to its burrowing habits. The eyes, if existing, were entirely invisible. According to Prof. Baird, the *R. Floridana* was common in the country from which it takes its name. It emerges from its subterranean retreats after thunder showers; hence its vernacular name of "Thunder Worm."

The specific characters were as follows: A broad crescentic rostral plate: immediately posterior to this on the median line are an oblong frontal, broader than long, and a large irregularly pentagonal vertical, with its posterior angle prolonged between two small occipitals; three small plates on each side of the vertical. Four superior labials on each side—the last three times the size of the third. The first separated from that of the other side by a trapezoid inferior rostral, and bounded above by a transversely elliptical nasal, which is pierced by the nostril above its centre. Three loreal plates in a series behind the nasal and above the labials—the first much the longest. Superior maxillary teeth five on each side; the anterior pair longest; inter-maxillary one; mandibular, each ramus, six. Inferior labials three or four; one symphyseal, one pair genials, one mento-labial on each side. Sternal plates small, irregular, about twelve in number. Vent very crescentic; three pairs of preanal plates in a longitudinal series. Fourteen rings upon the tail, all more or less tuberculous superiorly except the two basal ones. Color dirty white; upper surface of the head yellowish.

April 9th.

MR. LEA, President, in the Chair.

Forty-nine members present.

A paper was presented for publication, entitled

"On the marine shells brought by Mr. Drexler from Hudson's Bay, and on the occurrence of a Pleistocene deposit on the Southern shore of James' Bay, by W. Stimpson," and was referred to a Committee.

Mr. Cope made some remarks defining the following species of Reptilia Squamata: two of them he regarded as representing genera not previously known. He said: The generic form which I propose calling *Diphalus*, belongs

^a Op. cit. 1860, p. 263. ^b Op. cit. 1860, p. 488. ^c Herpetology U. S. Expl. Exped. p. 120. ^d Catal. Colubr. Brit. Mus. p. 210. ^e Herpetology U. S. Expl. Exped. p. 139.

^f Op. cit. p. 167. ^g Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 1860, p. 244. ^h Herpetology U. S. Expl. Exped. p. 169. ⁱ Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 1860, p. 250. ^k Op. cit. 1858, p. 253.

to the Amphisbænidae, and may be diagnosed as follows: Dentition pleurodont; muzzle conic, acute; nostrils lateral, each in a single plate, which is separated from that of the opposite side by a backward prolongation of the rostral. Two elongate rostro-frontals, in contact with the rostral anteriorly. Eye visible beneath the ocular shield. Preanal pores present.

D. fenestratus Cope had been discovered in the West Indian Islands of St. Thomas and Santa Cruz, by Mr. A. H. Rüse, of the former. The largest specimen obtained measured nine inches and six lines in length. The species is of cylindrical form. The dermal rings are uninterrupted, divided into squares above, more broadly segmented on the abdomen; caudal whorls twelve. Three upper labial plates, second much the longest, and in contact with fronto-rostral. Ocular trapezoid, anteriorly acute. Two or three temporals, two cuneiform frontals. One small symphyseal, and one large genaeal, both of them but little longer than broad. Three inferior labials, third twice the size of the first, one-fourth the size of the second. Color pale brownish white, each dermal segment marked with a small rectangular brown spot. The animal differs from *Typhloblanus caecus* Fitz., in the separation of the nasal plates, from *Cadea punctata* Gray, in the double rostro-frontal, and from both in the distinctness of the eyes.

Amphisbæna angustifrons is allied to *A. Pretrei* and *A. vermicularis*, but has a much shorter tail than either, beside other characteristic peculiarities. The form of the muzzle is quite similar to that of the species above described, being compressed conic. Rostral plate triangular, its apex only visible from above, separated from the rostro-frontals by the united nasals, as in the other species of the restricted genus. Rostro-frontals rather broad, the anterior outline curved, the posterior more curved. Thus the frontal pair, whose posterior border is also curved, exhibit an almost circular outline. A trapezoid ocular, bordered above by the rostro-frontal, posteriorly by a large temporal. Three upper labials, commissural border of the first longer than that of the others. Its supero-anterior border continuous with that of the second, its posterior with that of the nasal. One subtriangular symphyseal; one large gemmiform, genaeal; its anterior angle truncate; three inferior labials, second much the largest, bounded beneath by a subtriangular mento-labial; third labial small, elongate. Five superior maxillary teeth on each side, seven intermaxillaries (medial longest,) sixteen mandibulars. Four preanal pores; vent curved, bordered by ten narrow preanal plates. Caudal rings fifteen or sixteen. A specimen in the Academy Museum was brought from Buenos Ayres, by Dr. Kennedy.

Loxocemus Cope is a very remarkable genus of peropodous Ophidians, exhibiting several points of resemblance to the Calamarians, such as its cylindrical body, short tail, small eye, and narrow, conic head. The rostral plate finds a parallel in that of *Rhinocheilus* Bd. and Grd. and *Arizona Kenn.* also less closely in *Stenorhina Dum.* There is also a striking resemblance in the form of the head and pupil of the eye to *Olisthenes Cope*, (*Scytale* Boie, nec Merr., *Pseudoboa* Cope, nec Schneid.) *O. Neuwiedii* is quite similar in its style of coloration to *L. bicolor*. Without acquaintance with other allied genera, it is difficult to decide as to whether *Loxocemus* should enter the Boinae, or be regarded as the type of a new subfamily of aglyphodont eurystomatous serpents. Its diagnosis will be as follows: Body stout, cylindrical; tail short, urosteges two-rowed. Anal spurs small; metatarsal and tarsal bones large, tibia elongate curved, compressed and expanded at the distal extremity. Preanal plate bifid; gastrosteges narrow; scales smooth. Head small, indistinct, superiorly plane. Muzzle prominent, obliquely truncate. Rostral plate large, transverse, slightly elevated, encroaching on the prefrontals. Two pairs of frontals, the anterior very transverse, the posterior not completely separated from the large loreal. An elongate polygonal vertical. One small superciliary on each side, a narrow lateral occipital, and a

[April,

small medial interoccipital. Eye small, resting on the labials, which are not pitted; pre- and postoculars present; pupil elliptic, erect. Teeth slightly longer on the anterior parts of the dentigerous bones than on the posterior. Intermaxillary bone toothless; supraorbital bone none.

L. bicolor possesses three postocular plates; one large preocular is extensively in contact with the vertical; the latter plate presents an obtuse angle anteriorly, and is nine-sided. Superior labials ten, fourth and fifth entering the orbit. Twelve inferior labials. One pair of very narrow geneials, with a sulcus between them, and separated from the labials laterally by a single narrow plate on each side. Scales in thirty-four longitudinal rows; those of the inferior, half as wide as the gastrostege. The tail and upper surface of the body, between the fourth rows of scales on each side, are of a rich purplish brown. Belly, chin, and upper labials yellow. One specimen brought by Capt. J. M. Dow, from La Union, San Salvador, and presented to the Smithsonian Institution. No. 4948.

April 16th.

MR. LEA, President, in the Chair.

Thirty-nine members present.

A paper was presented for publication, entitled

"Description of a new genus (*Strephobasis*) of the family Melaniadæ, and three new species, by Isaac Lea," and was referred to a Committee.

Dr. Leidy mentioned that lignite had been discovered at the border of the new red sandstone on Plymouth Creek, near Norristown, Pa.

The death of Dr. John E. Evans, a correspondent of the Academy, was announced; he died at Washington, D. C., on the 13th inst.

A communication was made by Mr. Theo. Gill on several new generic types of fishes contained in the museum of the Smithsonian Institution.

The first was referred provisionally to the Agonoids, as an Agonoid under the guise of a *Peristedion*. It presented a very strong resemblance to the representatives of the latter genus, and would doubtless, at the first glance, be conceived to be very nearly allied to them. But with the same form as *Peristedion*, it has the head constructed on essentially the same plan as that of a true *Agonus*. The first suborbital bone expands inferiorly; the second covers the cheek, and both are armed with an inferior submarginal crest: the crest of the second has a median curved spine, from which radiating grooves and ridges advance on the surface. The snout, like that of *Agonus*, has on each side two spines, one horizontal and the other curved backwards. The dorsal fin is separated by several plates from the head. The thoracic region is covered with about three rows of more or less hexagonal plates, except in front, where there are only two plates. The ventral fins are approximated, and received in an elongated triangular groove or furrow. In allusion to the last named peculiarity, the genus was named *Podothecus*.

The family of Agonoids is now increased by this addition so as to include at least five described genera; they are the following:

Podothecus Gill.

Agonus Bloch = *Aspidophorus* Swainson.

Brachyopsis Gill = *Agonus* Swainson.

Hippocephalus Swainson.

Aspidophoroides Lac. = *Canthirhynchus* Swainson.

The new Agonoid was obtained by Dr. Kennerly, the zoologist of the North-
1861.]